THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (d) Pendinl a discussion in Parliament Government has not taken a final view on the compromise proposals of Director General GATT in respect of Uruguay Round negotiations including Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs). Government is not aware of any proposal to extend the transition period from 10 years to 15 years. Consequently, the question of Government having conveyed India's willingness to accept a TRIPs agreement with a 15 years transition period does not arise.

Article 31 of the draft TRIPs agreement pertains to 'other use without authorisation of the right holder', which term includes both compulsory licensing and government use. The Article covers all areas of patentability and is not limited to drugs, pharmaceuticals, food and chemicals. No limitations have been placed on the grounds on which such authorization can be granted. However, there are strict conditions attached to the grant of such authorization.

The Indian patent law would have to be amended if proposals contained in Article 31 were to be accepted. The effect of these changes would be to provide greater protection to all right holders by eliminating automatic licences of right and making compulsory licensing subject to strict conditions.

Several developing and developed countries have found the proposals of DG GATT to be less than fully satisfactory. Several others have indicated their willingness to proceed further in the negotiations on the basis of these proposals. Most countries which have pronounced themselves on these proposals have done so primarily on the basis of the draft Agreement on agriculture. India has informally indicated to the principal trading countries and to DG GATT its intention to seek improvements and changes in the text.

ITPO's proposal for exhibition centre at Hyderabad

1911. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the India Trade Pro tion Organisation (ITPO) has subsubmitted a proposal to Government of Andhra Pradesh for setting up of a permanent exhibition centre at Hyderabad on the lines of Pragati Maidan in Delhi; and

(b) if so, what is the present State of the proposal and the reasons for delay in setting up the exhibition centre?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh had requested for establishment of a Trade Fair Centre for the Southern Region at Hyderabad, by ITPO. This proposal has examine and ITPO has expressed their inability to undertake the work of setting up the above said exhibition complex, maintaining and managing its operations. However, ITPO has agreed to provide its know-how expertise and experience to the Government of Andhra Pradesh on commercial basis for undertaking this project on their own.

अरब देशों को बीड़ी का निर्यात

1912. **श्री विश्वासराव रामराव पाटिल** : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि कुछ अरब देशों को बीड़ी का निर्यात किया जा रहा है; और